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House of Representatives

The House is in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1995

(Legislative day of Friday, December 29, 1995)

The Senate met at 12 noon, on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN H. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend George Anderson, pastor of Mount Oak United Methodist Church, Bowie, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. George Anderson, pastor of Mount Oak United Methodist Church, Bowie, MD, offered the following prayer.

Let us pray:
O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!
Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

Another year dies—a new year is born. New challenges, new opportunities, new responsibilities, new occasions arise, demanding our best, requiring wisdom, vision, foresight, and courage.

O Lord God—Beautiful Savior, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace—I pray for the men and women of the U.S. Senate, their families, and their staffs, that You would watch over them with Your holy angels each day through the year that lies ahead; that

You would protect them, bless them, and guide them. Your word declares that "when a man's ways are pleasing to God, He makes even his enemies to live in peace with him."

O Ruler of Heaven—Lord of lords and King of kings, take charge in this Chamber. May Your will be done in this place through the guidance of Your holy spirit. Bind the powers of darkness that they might have no voice or place here.

And may the people of this land be blessed by the work that is done here. May the people—Your people—be encouraged, strengthened, liberated, and not ever weakened or oppressed by the laws enacted in these Chambers. Watch over our men and women in Bosnia and protect them, we pray.

As we commit to You the year that is ending, with all its successes and failures, so also we commit to you the year that lies ahead, with all its hopes and fears.

Thank You, O beautiful Savior that we don't have to face either the past, the present, or the future alone. But You promise to walk with us, as we put our trust in You.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

We pray this prayer in the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and Jesus. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 31, 1995.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CHAFEE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the Democratic leader and I will be on the floor momentarily. We are trying to figure out some way to work out a problem we have. Hopefully we can get it done. In the meantime, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE FACILITATION ACT OF 1994

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2808, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 just received from the House.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2808) to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until March 31, 1996, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the matter be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (H.R. 2808) was deemed read for the third time and passed.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that once the Senate receives the document entitled "A Bill to Provide for Deficit Reduction and Achieve a Balanced Budget by the Fiscal Year 2002," that is agreed to by the President and the congressional leaders, that the bill be considered under the following restraints:

That there be 12 hours for debate on all amendments, motions, and appeals in connection therewith, and all other provisions in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 be in effect as if it were a reconciliation bill.

I further ask that once the Senate receives from the House the bill entitled "A Bill to Provide for Deficit Reduction and Achieve a Balanced Federal Budget by 2002," that it be in order for the majority leader to introduce and place directly on the Senate Calendar the concurrent resolution revising the first concurrent budget resolution, as provided for under the Budget Act of 1974, and that the consideration of that concurrent resolution be limited to 1 hour to be equally divided in the usual form, with all other provisions of the Budget Act in effect with respect to the consideration of that concurrent resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, our colleagues should know that the effect

of this unanimous-consent agreement is to ask Federal workers to show up in their offices without being given authority to do virtually anything. Anything that would cost money would be prohibited. They would be required to sit on their hands and stare at each other day after day after day, until we pass something that gives them the right to do something.

So what this would allow them to do is to go to their offices, sit on their hands, and do nothing. They could not get in their trucks because they use gas. They could not make a long distance phone call because that would incur an expense. Anything that any office would do that incurs an expense would still be prohibited.

So, Mr. President, this is a facade. This does not work. This is not what we should be doing. Federal employees ought to come back to work. They ought to be paid. And the services they are paid to deliver ought to be funded. Federal employees ought to be allowed to come back to work, not just go to their offices, but to actually work, and Federal employees—who have been without pay since December 15—ought to be paid. This does not do it, and so I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—HOUSE MESSAGE ON S. 1508

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the message from the House on S. 1508 and concur in the House amendment with a substitute continuing resolution, giving them full authority to do all that they need to do once they go back to work, which reopens the Government and provides for the payment of all Federal employees who have been without pay since December 15, that the motion to concur be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. Let me indicate, first of all, I regret we were unable to reach some agreement today. We have not given up. We are going to come back here again Tuesday and, hopefully, by then we will have an agreement. I do not share the view of some of my colleagues that we ought to have a partial shutdown of the Government, or that the people should not be paid. But I do believe that we need to find some agreement. If we can get this done, we also would be willing to give some on what would happen if a balanced budget amendment were agreed to by the President, the Democratic leader, and the Republican leaders in the Senate and in the House, and we could move rather quickly if that were possible.

I am afraid that if this goes back to the House without some agreement even between me and my friend, Sen-

ator DASCHLE—we hoped to get a unanimous-consent agreement—not put it to legislation—and send back the deeming provision with a couple of provisions that the White House asked us to add today. One would permit Federal employees to apply for and receive unemployment compensation, which would be returned or refunded once they were paid. And the second thing, even though they have been furloughed, it would not interrupt their normal leave policy. We were prepared to add those at the request of White House counsel. By Tuesday, hopefully, we can work that out. I regret we were not able to do it now. Therefore, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—HOUSE MESSAGE ON S. 1508

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me emphasize that the resolution that I attempted to get unanimous consent for would have allowed Government to go back to work. We would not have had this sham proposal sent over to us by the House that does not allow people to go to work, does not allow people to get paid, does not allow people any opportunity to do anything once they are in their offices. So people ought to understand this. I have seen in the media for the last couple of days that this resolution somehow would allow Federal employees to go back to work. There is a distinction between going back to work and going to their offices. They will be able to go to their offices, but they will not be allowed to go back to work. Nor will they be paid.

So I would just emphasize that that is our first choice, to allow them to go back to work and have a continuing resolution that allows all Federal agencies to operate as they should during this time. If that cannot be done, I would pose the second unanimous-consent request, and that is the one that Senator DOLE and I agreed to last Friday, the 22d of December. On that occasion, with some reservation, I agreed to at least allow them to go to their offices to do whatever they could under very significant constraints.

They are not going to get paid, but since we did go on record on December 22d, Friday, to at least do that, to allow them to go back to their offices, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the message from the House on S. 1508, that the Senate concur in the House amendment with a substitute amendment, which includes the text of the distinguished majority leader's back-to-work bill, that the motion to concur be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I shall object.

Again, repeating, it seems to me that there was a provision that we might